

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

August 9, 2012

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Respect, Honor, Remember

Last month the anxiously awaited Fallen Worker Memorial was erected. Archie Daily, Transportation Employee Association President, and Assistant Chief Engineer Don Hillis, were joined by family and friends of the fallen and by MoDOT employees to dedicate the memorial.

Archie began the ceremony by thanking everyone involved throughout this process, which began in January 2009; particularly thanking all who planned and participated in the fund raising events. He also stated that the Association was proud to be a part of this memorial and there have been no fatalities since 2008.

Don also commended the efforts of the employees and the Association for leading the effort, nothing that more than \$67,000 had been raised. "This dedication is not only for the folks who lost their lives, but it is a dedication to the people who go out there every day. We have people out there in harms way today," said Hillis.

He further stated that hopefully this memorial will help employees think about what they are doing when they go to work. To make sure that they work safely, watch out for themselves, watch out for motorists and watch out for each other.

Don thanked the Missouri State Highway Patrol for aggressively enforcing work zones, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and MoDOT leadership. "It's all about making sure we get everyone home safe every day."

Photos and a video of the dedication can be seen at <http://www.modot.mo.gov/workzones/memorial.htm>.



Move Over for MoDOT



Soon motorists will be moving over for MoDOT vehicles, both maintenance and emergency.

By now, you've likely heard that the "Slow Down and "Move Over" law, that protects law enforcement and emergency response vehicles parked on the side of the road, is now expanded to include MoDOT employees. The law requires motorists to slow down or, if safe to do so, change lanes when approaching these vehicles. MoDOT vehicles parked with amber or white lights flashing are also included. Governor Nixon signed the bill into law last month.

The law also declared certain MoDOT vehicles as emergency vehicles. The emergency designation applies only to Motorist Assist and MoDOT vehicles specifically marked *Motorist Assist* or *Emergency Vehicle*. When responding to an emergency, the vehicle operator might display red lights and can use a siren.

Passage of the law was the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission's highest priority during the 2012 legislative session. "We are committed to the safety of all Missourians and our MoDOT workforce," said MoDOT Director Kevin Keith. "I am grateful to the Governor and Missouri Legislature for recognizing the importance of protecting MoDOT workers in the same way as the Highway Patrol and other emergency responders."

Passage of the law means work has gotten a little safer for those who spend their days on state highways. It is only fitting that MoDOT employees will now be placed in the same category as those who have been protected by the law since 2002. "About 2,400 MoDOT employees work on Missouri highways every day, often in high-volume traffic," said MoDOT State Maintenance Engineer Beth Wright. "Their number-one priority is to work safely, and we appreciate every effort to help get them home safely."

By the end of 2012, all "Move Over" signs will change to reflect the addition of maintenance vehicles to the protective law. Training is being developed to help employees understand the ins and outs of the new law, and how this will affect their daily operations.

Message Boards Report Fatality Numbers

Motorists traveling across Missouri rely on MoDOT's electronic roadside message signs to provide important highway information. Now a new type of safety message is being used. The boards will report the number of people who died on Missouri roads so far this year, and the percentage of those people who were unbelted.

"After a six year decline in fatalities, we are now seeing an upward trend," said Eileen Rackers, MoDOT State Traffic and Highway Safety Engineer. "We want to help motorists to be more aware of safety issues when making travel decisions."

These messages will be updated weekly and shown occasionally on the 66 rural message boards and those in the metro areas.

"We remain committed to providing a safe transportation system," Rackers said. "These boards allow us an additional outlet for continued safety messages."

"Missouri fatalities are up 14 percent compared to this time last year. That's equivalent to 58 additional lives lost. Daily fatality updates can be viewed on the Missouri State Highway Patrol web site at www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov.



Digital message boards are being used to report fatalities and remind motorists to "buckle up".

While no conclusion has been made to the cause of this increase, the following facts weigh heavily:

- During the last three years, seven out of ten vehicle occupants killed in Missouri traffic crashes were unbuckled.
- During the last three years, one in four Missouri traffic crashed involved a young driver (under the age of 21).
- Substance-impaired driving contributed to nearly 30 percent of all Missouri traffic fatalities in 2011.
- Eighty percent of crashes involve some form of distracted driving.

No Significant Changes to Medical Benefits

On August 8 the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission approved funding for our medical plan for calendar year 2013. For most employees, out of pocket premium cost will remain the same as it is currently, as long as you remain in the same rate category.

The Commission approved the following during their meeting:

- No change in overall rates for active employees and Medicare retirees.
- For retirees who are not on Medicare, an increase in overall rates of 3 percent. This increase will be shared by the current percentages between the Commission and the subscribers in this rate category. The increase is necessary in order to get this rate category closer to the point where it is no longer subsidized by other rate categories.
- An alternative Medicare Part-D drug program will be offered to Medicare subscribers. Participation in this plan will be optional, and the current plan will still be offered.

A rate chart for CY 2013 is available on the intranet at the following links:

<http://www.intranet/eb/documents/2013MedicalRateChart.pdf>

<http://www.modot.mo.gov/newsandinfo/documents/2013MedicalRateChart.pdf>

You will receive additional medical plan information at your home address later this year.

August Service Anniversaries

35 Years

David W. Rein - SL
Thomas F. Fellows - SE
Kathi M. Bishop - CO

30 Years

Steven A. Pendleton - CD
Janet M. Ruga - CO

25 Years

Debra S. Foster - KC
Philip J. LeCure - CD
Jacky D. Traw - SE
Anthony T. Burrow - SE
Tim L. Richmond - SE

20 Years

Ronald T. Gibson - NW
Edward R. Hunziger - NW
William E. Keiffer - NW
John C. Schleicher - NW
Brian A. Haefner - NE
Gerald B. Poulin - CD
Norma J. Snelling - CD
Mark W. Schall - SL
August R. Schaller - SW
Jerome C. Henson - SE
Harry W. Holtmeyer - CO

15 Years

Bruce A. Murrell - NW
Steven L. McCollum - CD
David W. Kunze - CD
Joseph L. Dotson - SW
Clay S. Wood - SE
Tommy J. Burgess - SE
Gretchen F. Hanks - SE
Lisa G. Cook - SE
Sue A. Sifford - SE
Terrell L. Martin - CO
John E. Diggs - CO

10 Years

Curtiss P. Baker - NE
Nancy M. Lancaster - KC
Lahoma M. Stone - KC
Travis M. Overstreet - CD
Jeremy B. Collier - SL
Joseph W. O'Hara - SW
Gena K. King - SW
Maurice L. Farr - SE
Jason B. Harris - SE
Thomas D. Osburn - SE
Frank R. Baker - CO

5 Years

Alvin E. Peavler - NW
Melvin W. Baker - NE
Jamie R. Martin - NE
Brett W. Morgan - NE
Michael B. Niemeyer - NE
Matthey J. Redd - NE
Michael E. Milligan - KC
Adam W. Dierkens - KC
Allen D. Minnick - KC
Danielle M. Henderson - KC
Timothy D. Hill - CD
Glenn C. Bunton - CD
Chad D. West - CD
Justin W. Nash - CD
Charles M. Rhodes - SL
Nevzeta Hasanovic - SL
Michael T. Marbough - SW
Erik Casas - SW
Harold R. Eads - SE
Andy J. Mattingly - SE
Jerry J. Bieser - SE
Richard Moore - CO
Stanley Thessen - CO
Richard D. Bearden - CO
Michael P. Hoer - CO
Amy M. Ludwig - CO

Douglas A. Backes - CO

Recent Retirements will be posted in August 23 edition

In Memorium

Gary Sherrill
former D6 - June 3
Charles Schnuck
former D5 - June 5
Harlan Daily
former D1 - June 8
Joseph Partee
former D10 - June 11
Philip Ryan
former D6 - June 15

Myrtle Propst
CO - June 26
Tammy Westervelt
SW District - July 7
Thomas Geisler
Central District - July 15
Michael Bruemmer
former D2 - July 1
James Ramirez
former D4 - July 1

Darlene Peck
former D3 - July 2
Sylvanus Buersmeyer
CO - July 8
George Rager
former D2 - July 8
Albert Newberry
former D8 - July 8
Richard Stadalman
former D1 - July 9

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Central
Office

Home ★

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Gearing Up for State Fair - Aug 9 thru 19



MoDOT joins the Missouri State Fair this year in a celebration of milestones. As the fair commemorates its 110 years in operation, MoDOT will celebrate 90 years in the highway gardens, 25 years of the Adopt-A-Highway Program, and 10 years of No More Trash.

Fairgoers that visit the gardens and the Transportation Expo Center will find the usual variety of displays that highlight the department's mission and values, including safe driving, work zone awareness and the history of transportation. Core samples from Interstate 70 will demonstrate the condition of the interstate and a large display will feature MoDOT's recent inclusion in the "Slow Down or Move Over" law that will now also protect MoDOT emergency and maintenance vehicles parked on roadway shoulders.

Also new this year is a pollinator garden designed to attract bees and other pollinating insects to the area. Pollinators provide a service necessary for the reproduction of nearly 70 percent of the world's flowering plants. MoDOT partnered with the St. Louis Zoo to help encourage the growth of pollinators in Missouri.

Changes at 830 MoDOT Drive

As part of the staffing changes associated with the Bolder Five-Year Direction, the department will no longer staff the front reception desk at 830 MoDOT Drive in Jefferson City. Central Office staff can still access the front entrance using their security badges.

There is a phone and a staff directory in the lobby of the building. While this is a change in how 830 MoDOT Drive operates, other Central Office locations have successfully handled access to buildings this way.

If you schedule a meeting at 830 MoDOT Drive and have district employees or other guests attending, please make arrangements to meet them at the door to provide them access to the building.



2012 Solutions at Work Summary



The Solutions at Work program was started at MoDOT in November 2006 to collect, evaluate and share employee best practices throughout the organization. Solutions at Work has been successful at doing all three. During the first six years of the program, Solutions at Work received 722 employee submitting. At the same time, a total of 91 statewide best practices have been identified and shared through an online database.

The total number of approved best practices for fiscal 2012, 17, tied the second highest total in the program's history. The majority of the best practices approved for the year were from Maintenance employees with 16. Bridge Maintenance had one best practice. The Kansas City District led all areas with four approved best practices. All seven districts and the Central Office had at least one statewide best practice approved this year.

The following statewide best practices were approved during this fiscal year:

- TMA Warning System (Kansas City District)
- Trimline Cone Weight Remover (Northeast District)
- Wonder Chute (Northwest District)
- Wing Plow Securer (Kansas City District)
- Tree Trimming Platform (Central District)
- Tab Remover (Northwest District)
- Joint Pusher (Central District)
- Joint Puller (Central Office)
- Gator Getter Modifications (Kansas City District)
- Edge Rut Box (Southwest District)
- Deck Sealing Process (Northeast District)
- Bridge Washing Attachment (Northeast District)
- Bridge Patching Bracket (Central District)
- Waste Material for Edge Ruts (St. Louis District)
- Tooth Changer (Kansas City District)
- Hydraulic Pressure Wrenches (Southeast District)
- Blade Raiser (St. Louis District)

For more information about Solutions at Work, visit <http://wwwi/intranet/cr/SolutionsAtWork/default.htm>.

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Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

August 9, 2012

Northwest
District

Home ★

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Safe Driver? Free Car!

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, the St. Joseph Police Department and "Car City Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram" are working together this year to encourage young drivers to be safe and "Arrive Alive." On August 1st, Officers Brendan McGinnis and Doug Loehner from the St. Joseph Police Department were at Central High School registering students with a pledge to drive responsibly. Once a month, throughout the school year, registration cards are drawn for free prizes such as gift cards and fast food coupons. Only students with a clean driving record can win. All registered drivers with a clean record are included in the final drawing for a free car, to take place at the end of the school year.

Photo by Travis Ellis



One for the Birds



Completion of the Safe and Sound bridge replacement project for the Northwest District is going to be delayed just a little longer. It seems that nests of cliff (bridge) swallows have been found on the Chariton County MO 11 railroad bridge which was scheduled to close on July 30. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects the birds and their nests from April through July, but this nesting appears to be later than normal this year. Construction will be rescheduled once MoDOT and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have monitored and evaluated the situation.

Photo provided

Bring Your Children To Work Day

photos and story by Travis Ellis

Approximately 65 children and 40 adults took advantage of the Northwest District's "Bring Your Children to Work Day" on Wednesday, Aug. 2. Thanks to hard work from a lot of people, the event was a huge success (at least that's what the children tell us). According to Albany Maintenance Crew Leader James Elvins, "When you have days like this, it shows you that they (MoDOT) believe family is important. I have never had an employer before that made me feel like family was as important as MoDOT does."

The Construction and Materials Lab provided a learning opportunity for our attendees. Assistant District Construction and Materials Engineer Brian Plummer is seen here explaining to his young audience exactly what "Sand Granularity" might be.

Senior Traffic Studies Specialist Joseph Turner taught the children what it takes to "Build a Bridge"



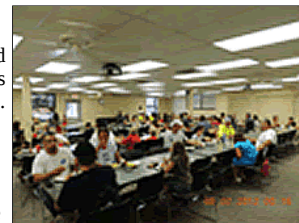
The kids enjoyed the highly technical, time and labor intensive activity known as the rock pile climb.



Senior Maintenance Worker Mike Bond showed everyone how to paint a stencil.



The Northwest District's Highway Employees' Association cooked burgers and hot dogs for everyone. A voluntary \$5 donation was suggested.



Glen Kruessel, an intermediate maintenance worker from Keytesville, watched his children viewing a paint striping.

Senior Office Assistant Amber Dydell watched to see how quickly Sarah Aebersold, daughter of Senior Customer Service Representative Shelly Aebersold, could put on the Personal Protective Equipment.



Not

everyone came into the St. Joseph Office. At the Trenton Maintenance building, Senior Maintenance Crew Worker Brian Smiley and his son Dustin enjoyed the day their own way.

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August 9, 2012

Northeast
District

Home ★

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

NE and STL Team Up to Chip Seal

You know you've been successful when you complete a chip seal and have zero customer concerns. That's right....zero! Several NE and St. Louis District maintenance crews teamed up to chip seal Route 94 in St. Charles County last month. "It was only about 3/10 of a mile long, it was a five-lane road with about 5000 cars a day, yet it still only took two days to complete the job," said Troy Maintenance Supervisor Mike Foppe.

Mike and his crew, along with some from Bowling Green, Elsberry and Center, enjoyed working with the Wentzville maintenance crew, under the leadership of Mike's former supervisor Larry Evans. "Larry and I worked real well together, and I think that contributed to the successful coordination of the project," Mike said.

The NE District provided some of the staff and the equipment, while the St. Louis District organized the traffic control. "I was impressed with their traffic control; they had five flaggers and a general flagger in the middle, and we had no near misses," he said.

"We ended up with a better product than what we could have done by ourselves," Larry noted. Another former NE District employee, Kenny Hollocher, was the maintenance superintendent overseeing the job. "I think since we knew each other and knew how we worked, it made joint organizing easier," Mike said. How did we end up with zero customer concerns? "There was a little dust, but we broomed it right away because we knew that would be a concern to the public, so we were proactive about taking care of it to avoid concerns," Larry explained.



Crews from several NE District maintenance facilities and the Wentzville maintenance facility in the St. Louis District teamed up to chip seal Route 94 in St. Charles County.

Sign Up for Safety!



Gale March and Bryan Moots of the Macon design department signing the banner at the district office in Hannibal.

We all know safety is important at MoDOT, so the NE District is asking all employees to sign the pledge on safety banners that will be hung in the district office in Hannibal and another in the regional office in Macon. "We wanted a visible reminder to our staff and for everyone who visits that safety is a priority," said NE District Engineer Paula Gough.

Rock 'n Road Prep for Shoulders

How much rock does it take to make a good base for a shoulder? Is the existing condition of the side of the road good enough to construct a shoulder? Or do we have to do more work prior to adding in a paved shoulder? These are questions that are answered with the help of core samples and dynamic cone penetrometer (DCP) readings. "These are used to determine existing pavement thickness and allows our pavement engineers to determine the most suitable overlay," said MoDOT Geotechnical Specialist Lydia Brownell.

"We use the auger truck and DCP readings to determine aggregate base rock thickness and subgrade conditions along the shoulders, which allows us to determine how much base rock is needed and if existing conditions are suitable to construct a shoulder or if remediation of the subgrade will be required prior to construction of the shoulder," Lydia explained.

By the end of 2013, 1,100 miles of Missouri highways will have paved shoulders and rumble stripes. The NE District is adding shoulders to several roads over the next few years, as well as making improvements.



Lydia Brownell, geotechnical specialist for the NE District, and AV Mullins, a driller with central office soils and geology are taking pavement cores with an auger within the city of Paris on Highway 15.

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A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

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Kansas City
District

Home ★

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

A WINning Partnership for KC

by Kerri Lewis

MoDOT recently partnered with the Women's Intersport Network for Kansas City (WIN for KC) to prepare for the annual WIN for KC Triathlon. WIN is a program that is part of the Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation and is a leader in empowering girls and women through sports and fitness.

The triathlon is held each year at Smithville Lake, and invites girls and women to participate in a 500 meter swim, 10-mile bike ride, and 5K run. Months of collaboration and planning lead up to the highly successful event on race day, July 28. MoDOT worked closely with members of WIN to ensure that the participants would be safe when competing.

Members from the KC District and NW District collaborated with the WIN committee, Clay County officials, emergency responders and the Clay County Parks Department to identify ways to minimize disruptions to area residents, keep safety as the top priority for all involved, and ensure the success of this program. This included closing portions of Route W and Route J during the event for everyone's safety. Maintenance crews worked on preparing each stretch of roadway to ensure good pavement and clean surfaces. In addition, several CMS boards were used to direct visitors and participants to the proper location and to notify motorists in the area about the event and closures.

"It was great for MoDOT to be an active partner of a nationally recognized women's event. The athletes appreciated the safe race event created by MoDOT by helping to prepare the roadways, setting out numerous message boards and closing the highway," said Transportation Project Manager Randy Johnson. Johnson served as the key contact for the WIN committee during the planning and coordination.

Advocating for safety is a MoDOT priority, and advocating a healthy lifestyle is an additional benefit. Supporting this event has allowed the district to focus on safety and health, reinforcing the importance of both.

"MoDOT is pleased to help support such an important community event," said District Engineer Dan Niec. "As a proponent of safety and health – especially preventative health related to physical fitness – MoDOT welcomed the opportunity to partner with WIN for KC to insure a safe, successful event."

The WIN for KC Triathlon hosts competitors from all over the country, empowering more than 1,000 girls and women each year. This year the race took a more local twist. Randy Johnson's wife Heidi, and Incident Management Coordinator Rusty James' wife, Caprice, and daughter, Kayleigh Hartley, crossed the finish line. Each completed the event in less than 2 hours.

"It was inspiring to watch these athletes cross the finish line and triumph over this challenging triathlon event," said Johnson.

"I was very impressed with the triathlon, and the fact that MoDOT was supporting it. It is such a great event. My wife, Caprice, and my daughter, Kayleigh, both competed in the triathlon. It was their first triathlon, however, I don't think it will be their last," said James. "The event was well organized and run. It was amazing to see the pride and confidence of the competitors as they completed each portion of the event."

MoDOT has worked with WIN for several years and continues to support events across the Kansas City District. These partnerships allow additional opportunities to promote safety and health, a benefit for all.



More than 1,000 girls and women compete in the WIN for KC Triathlon held at Smithville Lake in Clay County each year. MoDOT KC is proud to work closely with the committee to ensure the safety for those participating in the event.



Transportation Project Manager Randy Johnson and family show support for Heidi Johnson.



Kayleigh Hartley and Caprice James, daughter and wife of Incident Management Coordinator Rusty James, prepare for the start of the WIN for KC Triathlon.

MoDOT All-Stars Win in Preparation Before the Big Game

by Steve Porter

Weeks of work by MoDOT's maintenance team preparing for the All-Star Game paid off abundantly when visitors from throughout the world saw glimpses of tidy roadsides throughout the metropolitan area the week of July 8.

Crews shifted their schedules to work that Sunday to be sure everything looked good. They responded quickly to issues such as removing or covering new graffiti. Just ask Mulberry Maintenance Supervisor Ronnie Smith, whose team tackled the late-breaking annoyance quickly a day or two before activities at Kauffman Stadium.

Motorist Assist & Emergency Response crews also adjusted their schedules just for the events, and Kansas City Scout put up special messaging along the highways to help inform and direct travelers.

In the days just prior to All-Star Week, mowing around the baseball design on the embankment in the Jackson Curve was completed and prepared for representatives of the Royals and Major League Baseball to paint an MLB logo and All-Star Game message alongside the baseball. The timing was perfect, and the coordination with outside partners clicked into place.

"MoDOT's Kansas City District team did an extraordinary job," said District Engineer Dan Niec. "Thank you for showing the region and the world how we can deliver."

And we did deliver! The Kansas City Star noted how well MoDOT performed in its transportation role, and Niec pointed out the recognition given in the Star's 10-category report card published in Wednesday's July 11 edition, which listed Transportation as the only straight A on the card.



Kauffman Stadium, home of the Kansas City Royals

"We put forth a tremendous amount planning, effort and coordination with other agencies and it paid off," Niec said. "Of the 10-categories graded, the one that we had the most direct influence on delivering ranked the best. Congratulations!"

In ranking Transportation so highly, the Star story said, "Much praise was given for the 18 months of planning, reconfigured ramps around Kauffman Stadium, and the thousands of cameras around the city that help keep motorists moving. Throw in emergency responders assisted with stalled vehicles on I-70 and guiding traffic in and out of the stadium, traffic flow topped the rest."

The KC District should be proud of how well we performed for the All-Star festivities. In fact, Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Stephen Miller commended the district at the Commission's July meeting for an award winning performance. With these extra efforts, the district stepped up to the plate and helped make Kansas City shine!

Routes C and J Over Route 71

Ribbon Cutting Celebrates project completed one week ahead of schedule

by Steve Porter

The story surrounding the Routes C and J Bridge over Route 71 in Peculiar had a few twists and turns. The Routes C and J Bridge over Route 71 in Peculiar was closed to traffic for only 28 days, even though general contractor Phillips Grading and Construction, Inc. bid a 35-day closure for the nearly \$2 million bridge redecking project. They were on pace to beat the deadline when, only hours before they were to pour the bridge deck, a truck pulling a trailer with equipment slammed into a steel bridge girder. Phillips and MoDOT engineers quickly conferred and brought in Flame On, Inc., a team of specialists from Monroe, Wash., to repair the bent steel girder damaged by the collision. The contractor met the goal to replace the deck, add sidewalks and install new

signals before the start of the Raymore-Peculiar District's 2012-13 school year. The citizens of Peculiar and patrols of the Raymore-Peculiar schools were delighted with the early completion, and cheered the contractor's workers and MoDOT.

Even a morning shower - a rarity in this summer's heat wave and drought - couldn't delay the opening. During the four weeks the bridge was closed, Phillips workers and MoDOT engineers were surprised and pleased that Peculiar's businesses and residents brought water and encouragement to the jobsite. Workers were on the job 24 hours a day at times to ensure the community would have their vital link back as soon as possible. The August 2 opening occurred well ahead of the August 15 start of the school year.



Nearly 150 people gathered to celebrate the completed bridge.

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Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Blue Ribbon Committee Hears Funding Needs, Ideas

Central Missouri's transportation needs and possible ways to meet them were presented at a public forum held July 9 in Columbia, Mo.

The meeting was sponsored by the Blue Ribbon Citizens Committee on Missouri's Transportation Needs, a 21-member panel of business leaders, contractors and special interest groups from across the state. The committee was appointed by Missouri House Speaker Steven Tilley, R-Perryville, with the purpose of examining Missouri's current and future transportation needs and exploring possible solutions.

Members of the committee listened as more than 30 people from the central Missouri area explained their most pressing transportation needs, as well as their ideas for possible funding solutions. The speakers represented municipalities, businesses, universities, associations and other organizations.

MoDOT Director Kevin Keith kicked off the meeting by telling the committee, "We have a problem." He said the primary source of funding for transportation, the fuel tax, hasn't been increased on the state level since 1992, and the federal fuel tax hasn't been increased since 1993. In the meantime, the cost of asphalt has increased from \$21 a ton in 1992 to \$60 dollars a ton today. Likewise, a cubic yard of concrete in 1992 sold for \$51 and today a cubic yard of concrete sells at \$153. In addition, vehicles are becoming more fuel efficient.

Central District Engineer Dave Silvester provided an overview of the state of transportation in the Central District, including a list of unmet project needs. "We have identified a \$34 million yearly funding shortage for road, bridge and safety projects," Silvester told committee members. "And, we have \$2 billion worth of needed projects that would make our system safer, create jobs, ease congestion and promote economic development – but no funding to tackle these projects." To view Dave's presentation, click [here](#).

The committee held hearings in each of MoDOT's seven districts and is expected to release its final report in November.



Members of the Blue Ribbon Citizens Committee on Missouri's Transportation Needs met July 9 in Columbia to gather input on the state's transportation needs. Pictured from left to right are Becky Cleveland, Joe DeLong and Duane Michie, former member of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission.

New Direction in Safety Shared

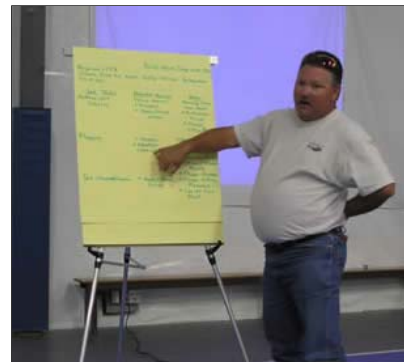
"Safety is more important than anything – even production."

That was the message conveyed at a safety meeting held June 27 in Vienna. Maintenance supervisors, superintendents, equipment technician supervisors, traffic leadership and resident and area engineers came together to discuss this new direction for work place safety.

"There is nothing more important than doing our jobs safely," said Central District Engineer Dave Silvester. "That includes delivering results. We have been so focused on driving our work processes and delivering results, and that direction is what drove us. No more. Safety will and must be our focus. If we are constantly being safe, the results will come."

District Safety and Health Manager Chris Engelbrecht spoke to the group about head and eye protection, the Safety Jackpot, where the district stands in terms of safety statistics and where to find safety resources.

Following a discussion of job safety analyses, participants broke up into groups to brainstorm safety topics for their morning safety meetings and create job safety analyses on three different types of work. Each group then shared one job safety analysis example with those in attendance.



Rolla Maintenance Supervisor Mike Bouse shares an example of a job safety analysis at a district safety meeting held June 27 in Vienna.

While the meeting participants were mostly supervisors who oversee employees in safety sensitive positions, Dave stressed that safety is not limited to those individuals. He said the safety message and direction are pertinent to each and every district and MoDOT employee.

Zero Injury Philosophy

All injuries are preventable
No injury is acceptable
Everyone home safe every day

Employees Complete Leadership Program

Fifteen employees completed the 12-month Central District Maintenance Leadership Program on June 14. This was the first year the district implemented the program, which prepares maintenance workers to be future leaders within the maintenance field.

Program participants had the opportunity to gain knowledge in a variety of different areas including basic computer skills, oral presentations, change management, time and leave reporting, safety, diversity, interviewing, performance management, customer service, planning, career development and ethics.

"I really enjoyed the Leadership Program," said Ginger Hird, senior maintenance worker. "It has helped me be a better employee and is a really good educational opportunity. It teaches you to be more assertive and handle things better when put on the spot."

"When meeting with this group, it was easy to see we have some really talented folks who are engaged in their work. We are lucky to have these people as potential leaders," said District Maintenance Engineer Mark Giessinger.

At the conclusion of the program, Human Resources staff worked with each participant to prepare an individual career development plan moving forward. HR will follow up in six months to evaluate progress.

"We provided employees with some basic knowledge, skills, and abilities during the program, but need to also follow up periodically to assist them with ongoing development," said Human Resources Manager Kim Hickey.

The district plans to evaluate the program, make any necessary changes or improvements and begin another class this fall.



These 12 employees completed the Central District Maintenance Leadership Program on June 14. Pictured from left to right in the front row are Patrick Wulff, Jon Schneider, Virginia Hird, Craig Rennick, Travis Mace and Dirk Honeycutt. Pictured from left to right in the back row are Dan Nelson, Jason Lackman, Phillip Thompson, James Hake, Stephen Washam and Chris Draffen. Not pictured are Chris Licklider, Justin Anderson and Travis Teter.

Recent Ribbon Cuttings Mark Road and Bridge Progress



Jefferson City Mayor Eric Struemp and Cole County Presiding Commissioner Marc Ellinger cut the ribbon for the new Route 179/Mission Drive interchange on July 12.

July saw the completion of a key interchange project in Jefferson City and a number of Safe & Sound bridges. State and local officials joined together July 12 to cut the ribbon to open the new Route 179/Mission Drive interchange located between Route C and Edge wood Drive in Jefferson City. The new interchange provides access to a new St. Mary's Health Center that is being built at this location. The project was a joint effort of MoDOT, the City of Jefferson, and Cole

County. In addition to the new interchange, a new road called Mission Drive serves as an access roadway to the new health facility. Construction of Mission Drive was funded by the City of Jefferson and Cole County. Emery Sapp and Sons, Inc. of Columbia, Mo. was the contractor on the \$7.4 million project.

In addition, ribbon cutting ceremonies were held to celebrate the opening of all Safe and Sound bridges in Dent and Crawford counties. The bridges in Dent County are located on Route 32 over Spring Creek, Route H over Holt Creek and Route NN over Dry Fork. The bridges in Crawford County are located on Route M over the Meramec River, Route N over the Bourbon River, Route BB over Cherry Valley Creek and Route O over Pine Branch.



Oh, To Be a Kid Again!



Jefferson City Maintenance Worker Robert Lansford took time from his regular schedule to explain how the Gator Getter helps keep Missouri highways clear. His audience was children of Central District and Central Office employees taking part in the June 28 Take A Child to Work Day event. In addition to getting to see all types of equipment up close, the kids were able to tour the Construction and Materials Lab, where they experienced several hands-on activities that explained the make up of our highways and bridges. In addition, they got to make - and eat - "asphalt" cookies, which were actually chocolate oatmeal no-bake cookies. The Central District Credit Union provided cups with crazy straws, as well as chips and soda, for the youngsters.

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Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

August 9, 2012

Home ★

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

St. Louis
District

St. Louis Community Liaison Receives Prestigious Citizenship Award

by Kara Price



Pictured left to right: Malik Ahmed, Founder and CEO, Better Family Life; Francella Jackson, 2012 Better Family Life Family Week Co-chair award recipient; Shirlyn Myles, MoDOT Community Liaison; James Clark, vice-president of Community Outreach, Better Family Life.

The St. Louis district's Community Liaison Shirlyn Myles recently received the 2012 Family Week St. Louis Corporate Citizenship Award from Better Family Life, Inc., which is a community development organization dedicated to the prosperity and growth of the American family.

Over the past four years, Myles has worked on several initiatives with Better Family Life. Her dedicated efforts include Metropolitan Education and Training (MET) programs, commercial driver license (CDL) opportunities, neighborhood town hall meetings, human resources recruitment of professionals, DBE recruitment of minority and women-owned businesses, Family Week, Who's Who in Black St. Louis Softball Classic and resource sharing.

"Myles has been an excellent ambassador of MoDOT for Better Family Life and several community-based organizations. It is because of her sincere efforts to empower the community that Shirlyn was nominated and will receive this prestigious award, an honor she has earned," said James Clark, Vice President of Community Outreach for Better Family Life, Inc. Congratulations Shirlyn on your hard work and dedicated efforts!

Walsh-Alberici Team Selected to Build I-64 Missouri River Bridge

Project Scheduled for Completion by late 2015

by Linda Wilson Horn

MoDOT's fourth design-build contract was awarded by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission on July 10. The Walsh-Alberici Joint Venture with consultant Burns & McDonnell was selected to be the design-build contractor for the Interstate 64 Daniel Boone Bridge over the Missouri River.

The \$125 million project will build a new I-64 bridge over the Missouri River to

replace the deteriorated bridge built in 1935. The project will include building a new eastbound bridge and removal of the 1935 existing westbound bridge. It will also build a new Chesterfield Airport Road interchange that connects the North Outer Road to the westbound I-64 entrance ramp.

The project will build a continuous westbound fourth lane from the Chesterfield Airport Road entrance ramp westbound to the Route 94 exit ramp. A shared use path on the new eastbound bridge connecting the KATY trail to the Monarch Levee Trail is also part of the plan.

"I'm pleased to announce the Walsh-Alberici joint venture with designer Burns & McDonnell as the selected design-build contractor," said MoDOT Director Kevin Keith. "Their proposal provides the most improvements coming in under budget with a delivery much faster than we had anticipated. The impacts to the public during construction will be very minimal and the final outcome will provide a great benefit to the users of the bridge."

The Walsh-Alberici construction schedule maintains all lanes during peak hours with minimal weekend closures for demolitions and bridge girder settings.

The schedule includes:

- 2013 = construction begins
- 2014 = traffic on new eastbound bridge by Nov. 15, 2014
- 2015 = all traffic in final position by Oct. 2, 2015. Contract complete Dec. 31, 2015

The Walsh-Alberici joint venture includes Walsh Construction Company of Chicago, Ill., and Alberici Constructors Inc. of St. Louis. The lead design firm is Burns & McDonnell Inc. The Walsh-Alberici team will pursue subcontracting to Disadvantaged Business Enterprise companies for 14 percent of the construction work and 20 percent of the professional services work. Workforce goals also include a 14.7 percent minority and 6.9 percent female workers per trade.



The Walsh-Alberici Joint Venture provided this rendering of the new I-64 Daniel Boone Missouri River Bridge. The new eastbound bridge will include a shared use path connecting the KATY Trail to the Monarch Levee Trail and will be complete by fall 2015.

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Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

August 9, 2012

Southwest
District

Home ★

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition



SW District at Work

Anderson and Neosho maintenance crews joined forces last week to patch the pavement on Newton County Route P south of Joplin. Raking the cold mix are Neosho Crew Leaders Sheila Denmark, left, and Travis Wilfong, right.

Photo: Bob Edwards

Interstate 44 / Range Line Road in Joplin: Reconstruction Begins Week of Aug. 13

by Bob Edwards

Work begins this month on what will be the Southwest District's sixth Diverging Diamond Interchange -- at I-44 and Range Line Road in Joplin.

Other modifications that are part of the project will enable the interchange to handle expected traffic increases for many years, Project Manager Sean Matlock said.

"It's being proactive," Matlock said. "It'll work very well."

The project involves replacing the I-44 bridges over Range Line Road and eliminating cloverleaf ramps in favor of straight, directional ramps.

Range Line Road (Bus. Route 71) will be converted to the DDI design, with traffic criss-crossing to the left-hand side and back to the right-hand side at new traffic signals, one on either side of I-44.

"When we take the cloverleaves out ... based on the turning movement volumes, the DDI should work well," District Traffic Engineer Joe Rickman said.

Completion is scheduled for the end of 2013.

The first DDI in the United States was built at Kansas Expressway (Route 13) and I-44 in Springfield in 2009. DDIs then were built at National Avenue and U.S. 60 in Springfield (the second in the nation) and Route 248 and U.S. 65 in Branson.

Another DDI is under construction this summer at Chestnut Expressway and Route 65 in Springfield. A fifth DDI will be built by mid-2013 at Kansas Expressway (Route 13) and Route 60.

During construction, all lanes of traffic on I-44 and Range Line Road will remain open during daytime hours. However, one lane will be closed in one or both directions on I-44 at various times at night -- 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

The lanes on I-44 will be narrowed to 10 feet wide and shifted, with the speed limit reduced to 60 mph in the work zone.

The speed limit on Range Line Road will be reduced to 35 mph.

Ramps entering or exiting I-44 may have to be closed for short periods at various times.

Because of heavy traffic moving from I-44 onto northbound Range Line Road every day, an extra turn lane will be added at the ends of two ramps:

- Ramp from westbound I-44-to-northbound Range Line Road will have two right-turn lanes.
- Ramp from eastbound I-44-to-northbound Range Line Road will have two left-turn lanes.

The prime contractor is Emery Sapp and Sons, Columbia. Construction cost: \$8 million.



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Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

August 9, 2012

Southeast
District

Home ★
Central Office

Districts

Northwest
Northeast
Kansas City
Central
St. Louis
Southwest
Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Heroes Way Ceremony Honors SGT Michael J. Beckerman

Nearly 100 attendees joined at the Ste. Genevieve Community Center on July 28 to honor Sgt. Michael J. Beckerman. Sgt. Beckerman of Ste. Genevieve, Mo., of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), was killed on Dec. 31, 2010 from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

The ceremony celebrated naming Exit 143 on Interstate 55 the Sgt. Michael J. Beckerman interchange.

The Heroes Way Interstate Interchange Program legislation, passed in 2009, allows interstate interchanges to be designated for Missouri residents, who were in the armed forces, and were killed in action on or after Sept. 11, 2001, in either Afghanistan or Iraq. In 2011, Representative Linda Black sponsored legislation, which expands the original law to include state numbered highways. Signed by Governor Jay Nixon, the law became effective on Aug. 28, 2011.

Speakers at the Heroes Way Ceremony included:

- Ms. Christy Mercer on behalf of U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill
- Ms. Kathy Waltz on behalf of U.S. Representative Russ Carnahan
- Kevin Engler, Missouri Senate, District 3
- Joe Fallert, Missouri House of Representatives, District 104
- Ms. Lois Flieg, former teacher and friend of the family
- Ms. Lisa Beckerman McGregor, Sgt. Beckerman's mother
- MoDOT Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton

To view videos or photos from the ceremony, please visit www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/special_events/sgtbeckerman_july2012.htm.



Visit <http://youtu.be/EwRkd8IgELU> or click the video above to watch the Heroes Way Ceremony honoring Sgt. Beckerman.

MoDOT Holds Briefing to Discuss Proposed Scott City Interchange

The Southeast District recently held a public meeting to discuss construction of an interchange to provide access to south Scott City, as well as a connection from Interstate 55 to Kelso. Additionally, the project would relieve congestion at the Route 61/I-55 interchange.

The project is in the scoping phase, with MoDOT currently working to gain environmental clearances.

"Once funding becomes available, MoDOT will be ready to move forward with this project and begin the design phase," said Project Manager Eric Krapf.

MoDOT is examining design alternates for constructing the interchange. The three alternates include constructing the interchange near the Route PP crossing. To learn more about the proposed project, please attend the online meeting at www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings/scottcityinterchange_aug2012.htm.

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